



The Bell Ringer

Montgomery Bell Academy 4001 Harding Rd. Nashville, TN 37205 Vol. 52, Issue 4 January 22, 1997

News

News briefs
page 2

Student Council
reforms & memorial
page 3

Opinions

Honor System
reform
pages 4 & 5

Features

Outing Club trip
page 6



Wilson and Barbie
page 6

The Construct
page 6

Sports

Boys' Club B-Ball
page 7

Swimming
page 8

Basketball
page 8



Wrestling
page 8



Theft not petty at MBA

Students and faculty suffer from stolen wallets and electronics

by Gabe Roth

Crime is commonplace in society; just watch the six o'clock news and count how many of the stories deal with murder, arson, or some other felony. Many of the crimes that people deal with at MBA concern theft. When items such as a pencil or pocket change are stolen, the police are not notified, and there are not going to be five detectives running around the campus trying to find the culprit. Every year, however, there are reports of stolen backpacks or wallets, important items for every MBA student.

If there is enough evidence to show someone has stolen the belongings—i.e., witnesses saw the theft—then that individual will go before the Discipline Committee. This committee consists of a chairman, Mr. Elliott, and six class supervisors, Mr. Killian, Mr. Gauthier, Mr. Chenery, Mr. Carr, Mr. Corrine, and Mr. Wines, as well as Mr. Regen and Mrs. Thurnmond, ex-officio members, and Mr. Downey, the "Member-at-Large." Senior Todd Moran and junior Michael Martin are also part of the committee. Like the Honor Council, this group of people suggests an appropriate punishment to Mr. Glola.

Several months ago, the wallets of James Walton, Patrick Armstrong, Kevin Weldon, and Aaron Lara were stolen from pants hanging in unlocked lockers in the Varsity locker room. Some of the cards and money in these students' wallets were found on 2nd Avenue, along with two of the wallets. The father of the thief found the wallets in the back seat of his son's car and, noticing that they came from MBA students, quickly notified the school, gave back the stolen money, and reimbursed the students whose wallets were not found. The thief is not associated with the school. Various teachers have also had items stolen. Among other items, Mr. Moxley's wallet, Mr. Custer's personal VCR, Mr. Regen's laptop, a Deluxe Building TV, and a TV/VCR and CD boombox from Wallace 3, the Spanish classroom, are missing. Even the MBA historic sign on West End has been stolen.

Either late on the night of December 5 or early in the morning of December 6, five laptops, two IBMs and three Macs, were stolen from the library trailer. Mr. Jackson, the Director of Business and Finance at MBA, says that the people who stole the laptops probably entered the trailer through an unlocked window. To get them back, MBA has filed a police report and notified their insurance company, which will probably reimburse the school for the loss. The laptops do have MBA identification stickers with serial numbers, so it is possible that they will turn up somewhere else in the city. Since the break in, screws have been added to the windows to make it impossible to open the window without breaking the window itself. The school has also changed the locks on the outside doors of every building due to the loss of a set of building keys.

At Harpeth Hall, just like at MBA, there is not a major problem with students stealing the belongings of other students. However, a group of high school students makes up a committee similar to the MBA Honor Council. Students who "lie, cheat, or steal" come before this committee, and appropriate punishments for these students are (continued on pg. 3)

Tennessee schools' split antagonizes II

TSSAA creates new competitive categories

by Stephen Was and Gabe Roth

Lately, there has been talk around campus about the TSSAA split and how it affects the sports program at MBA. The split isolates schools giving financial aid to their student-athletes from the schools not doing so. The Board of Directors of the TSSAA has created a two division format that will go into effect in September, 1997. Division I will consist of over 300 schools, the vast majority of them public, that do not give financial aid. Division II will be composed of the thirty-three schools that may choose to give financial aid to their student-athletes. MBA, along with Brentwood Academy, Father Ryan, and Christian Brothers, is in Division II.

For all sports, except football, Division II is divided into three parts, West, Middle, and East, corresponding to the regions of Tennessee. They are arranged in this manner for scheduling reasons and post-season play. MBA is in the Middle Tennessee division with local schools such as Brentwood Academy, Father Ryan, Harpeth Hall, University School, and Goodpasture.

Division II is split into AA and A-sections for football. MBA is in the AA division with six other schools that are highly competitive in this sport. Head football coach Ricky Bowers remarked that the split "won't affect the quality of the team" but said that "separation [of financial-aid-giving schools] is not the answer. . . it's discriminatory. . . and not a responsible solution." Under the split, MBA will still play very good football teams, such as Memphis University School, Brentwood Academy, Baylor, Father Ryan, Christian Brothers, and McCullie, during next year's regular season.

Other MBA team coaches, such as head basketball coach Kyle Bilis, are also disappointed (continued on pg. 2)



NEWS BRIEFS

HOLIDAY CONCERT

On December 10 in Paschall Theatre the MBA chorus held a joint concert with the Harpeth Hall chorus, along with the Nashville Symphony as special guest star. Sophomore violinists David Yi and Hanlin Qian accompanied the symphony on a selection by Bach. The symphony participated in the concert in return for being able to practice in the Paschall Theatre during the summer.

The deal will also allow MBA musicians to play with the Symphony every twelve to eighteen months.

SHOWCASE

On the weekend of January 4-5, MBA hosted seventy-two of the best policy teams and twelve of the best Lincoln-Douglas debaters in the nation during the fifteenth annual MBA Southern Bell Debate Tournament and fed them mass quantities of good food and Goo-Goo's™.

DEAN BEATEN BY WATERBOY

At the senior video game festival, Robert Sawyer captured the college football title, beating Michael Higgins in the finals. David Dean's challenge to the football team was met by the team's trainer, Justin Elliot, who held a 40-point lead most of the game. The Terno Bowl journey was won by sophomore Thomas Ross, and the Mario Kart tournament was won by freshman Will Corbett. By the end of the weekend, almost \$400 had been raised for the senior gift.

NO TRUETT-McCONNELL HERE

Congratulations for being accepted to college go out to seniors Frank Blair (Tennessee and Georgia), John Buchanan (Penn), Neely Coble (SMU), Sean Cunningham (Iowa State), Scott Denbo (Harvard), John Austin Echols (Tennessee), Stanton Frazer (Vanderbilt), Lee Hampton (Harvard), Raleigh Harwell (Roanoke College), John Hearn (Vandy), Joe Hills (South Carolina and Tennessee), Patrick Hill (Tennessee), Kinsler Ichikawa (Columbia), John Markham (Vandy), Will McInnes (Auburn), Joe Montgomery (Yale), Paul Russell (Tennessee), Andrew Smaldone (George Washington), Russell Taber (Georgetown), Justin Tatum (Tennessee), Steve Tobias (Clemson), Tyson Ture (Goucher College), Steele Vanczy (Sewanee), Philip Zimmerman (Vandy), and Henley Sayers (Washington and Lee).

ATHLETES GRAB MID-STATE HONORS

Several MBA athletes made the All Mid-State Team in their sports. Russell Taber and David Dean made the 1st and 2nd Cross Country teams, respectively. Max Fuller, Scott Denbo, Matthew Berry, Paul Russell, and John Markham were named to the 1st football offense squad, and Rob Bearden was named to the 2nd offense team. Will Bartholomew made 1st team defense and Tyler Coleman made the 2nd team. Brandt Snedeker was named to the 1st team in golf, and Noble Judy and Matt Wallace received Honorable Mention.

THE MOST POWERFUL DEBATE TEAM...

The MBA debate team extended its dominance north of the Tennessee border in tournaments at Princeton High School in Ohio and at the University of Kentucky. At the Kentucky tournament, the team of Ben Sabol and Joe Martinelli won the novice division. The varsity teams of Mark Yopp and Samir Idnani and Robbie Quinn and Travis Swearingen both advanced to the quarterfinal round. At the Princeton tournament, the unit of Nathan Sabol and Raja Gadipati reached the semifinal round in varsity policy, while the team of Rob Hunsbricht and Josh Hildebrand advanced to the octofinal round.

MBA theft (continued)

recommended to the teachers and the headmistress. Other schools, however, are not so lucky. A University School student reports that an AP exam was stolen and copies of it were sold to students last year. At Hillsboro, there are two police officers and one part-time detective who patrol the school. Calculators, namely TI-82s, are among the most common items stolen there. At other area schools, such as Brentwood High and Martin Luther King, students' backpacks are locked in classrooms during the lunch periods, to minimize the possibility of having them stolen. Most of the schools have some kind of discipline committee, either faculty- or student-run (as at Harpeth Hall), which recommends a suitable punishment (usually in-school suspension) to the principal.

How do people on campus know that when a student's backpack or a wallet is "gone," there is a theft involved? Right away, they don't. The object could be misplaced, moved to some other location on campus as a prank, or even turned in to the main office after someone found it. Or, yes, it could be stolen. It is a rare occurrence at MBA when something is stolen from a student. "There's really not a lot of crime at MBA," states the Director of the High School, Mr. Damon Regen, "especially ... with 700 people on campus." Nevertheless, MBA will never be to the point where nothing is stolen. Says Mr. Regen: "It's not realistic in society, and MBA ... is just a microcosm of society."

TSSAA split (continued)

about the split. "I wish things would have stayed the way they were," Mr. Bills observed. "That way we could have given financial aid to our players and still have maintained our rivalries with other schools, such as Pearl-Cohn and Hunter's Lane, that we get to play in the regular season but do not get to play now in the post-season (under the rules of the split)." Although there is nothing he can do about the split, Mr. Bills went on to say that he thinks Division II will have some great competitions in years to come.

Mr. Gioia explained that there are positives that can come out of the split: "We might have a common ground with the other schools in MBA's division, thus being able to make decisions together and coordinate school calendars, so there is not as much overlap between sports seasons." He remarked that it is hard to know what to expect with the new division, and if things do not work out, there always is the possibility that MBA would move

out of the TSSAA altogether. The school and other groups opposed to the ruling may also attempt to sue the TSSAA or go to the state legislature to reverse the split. The decision on which option to pursue will be made after a January 9-10 meeting between the TSSAA and independent schools and the TSSAA's January 20 response to independent school requests concerning transfer rules, playoff schedule, and financial aid. Despite his dislike of the split and opinion that it is doing an injustice to the MBA community, Mr. Gioia remains optimistic about next year's sports ventures.

With this split, there is no telling what division MBA sports teams will be playing in down the road. However, the school, as always, will try to keep its winning tradition and excellence in athletic competition. For the state of Tennessee, as Mr. Bowers said, "Only time will tell if the split will have a positive or negative effect."

Green Hills Music

"Since 1969"

- BANDS & ORCHESTRAS
- VIOLINS
- BAND & STRING SUPPLIES
- FOLK INSTRUMENTS
- GUITARS - AMPS - PEDALS
- NEW & USED INSTRUMENTS
- MUSIC LESSONS - SHEET MUSIC
- RENTAL PURCHASE PLAN

For 24 Hour Information on
Sales & Rentals
221-0781

Student Council & you Amendments, memorial almost finished

by Matt Lathrop and Lee Hampton

Long-standing Student Council attempts to amend the Student Council Constitution and create a memorial for Dr. Paschall are coming to fruition. The Council is planning to submit three amendments to the Constitution for approval in early February and to buy a memorial bench for the Davis Courtyard.

According to Student Council President John Buchanan, the Council wants to amend the Constitution in order to create "a more clear definition of what the students' role in



John Buchanan presides over Student Council members Wilson VornDieck, Michael Martin, and Stuart Burkhalter as Dr. Crowell looks on.

running student activities is." The first amendment deals with class elections, which have been administered by faculty class advisers in the past few years. The method of election has varied from adviser to adviser, with some permitting losing candidates to run for several offices, even though the constitution does not allow this practice. The Council hopes the amendment will standardize the election process and ensure that student officers run the election. According to Buchanan, "class officers are supposed to run elections; faculty advisers are not supposed to run [them]."

The second amendment essentially says that, in any student-run activity, the students should be in charge and the faculty advisers should just advise. The amendment would apply to class and non-athletic activities in its current form, but the amendment proposal has not been completely fleshed out because it is relatively new. In keeping with the principle of students running extra-curricular activities, Dr. Crowell has simply advised the Council members while allowing them to make all of the decisions.

The third amendment would create non-voting seats on the Student Council for a junior school student and class presidents. This proposal is also still under development, however.

The process for amending the Constitution began two years ago when the Council decided to consider ways to improve the Constitution, but final approval of the proposals is still fairly distant. The amendments will have to be approved by Mr. Gioia, the faculty, and the student body to go into effect (See current Constitution next to this article for details).

The memorial to Dr. Paschall is also nearing completion. Mr. Gioia has agreed to the Council's proposal of buying a bench with a plaque which will go in the Davis Courtyard. This was the fifth Student Council proposal, the others being a garden near the library, cherry trees near Harding Road, a bench with trees in the Davis Courtyard, and trees in front of Paschall Theater. The bench will be paid for with money donated by the student body three years ago. The bench and plaque should be in place by the end of the year.

Student Council Constitution of MBA

Article 1 - Functions:

A. To provide a forum for student expression through which each student, while at Montgomery Bell Academy, may contribute of his own thought and service to the continuous improvement of the school.

B. To serve as a liaison between the student body and the faculty as an effective representative of the desires and wishes of all students by serving wherever possible as an advisory committee on student policies.

C. To encourage a sense of responsibility among the students for understanding, appreciating, and helping to maintain and perpetuate the fine traditions and noble ideals of Montgomery Bell Academy.

Article 2 - Rules:

Every student shall be a gentleman on and off campus as interpreted by the Student Council and/or the Administration.

Article 3 - Organizations and Membership:

A. The Student Council shall be composed of four representatives from each grade in the high school, none of whom shall be representatives to the Honor Council or Class Officers.

B. After assembling for the first time in an academic year, the Student Council shall choose a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer from the representatives from the Senior Class.

C. There shall be one representative from the Junior School Council to provide communication between the schools. The Junior School representative shall have the same vote as the high school representatives.

Article 4 - Election of Members:

A. The representatives to the Student Council shall be elected at the same time and place as representatives to the Honor Council and Class Officers.

B. No person shall be a candidate for the position of Student Council representative who shall also be a candidate for the Honor Council or for a class office.

C. The elections shall occur beginning in the last week of April except for the Freshmen and the Junior School representative. These shall be elected after six weeks of the school year following the election of Sophomore, Junior, and Senior representatives. The term shall begin in September except for Freshmen and Junior School representatives whose terms shall begin as soon as they have been elected.

D. In order to qualify for election to a particular office, a candidate must have passed at least four academic subjects for the first semester and must have gathered a nominating petition of at least twenty valid signatures from members of his class. Petitions shall be turned in to the office no later than Friday of the week preceding the elections.

E. A list shall be made of all nominees to the office of Student Council Representative and each class member shall vote for four (4) candidates of his choice. The votes shall then be tallied and the representatives shall be the four (4) candidates with the greatest number of votes.

F. In elections for Class Officers, the following method shall be used: on a ballot, each student shall list, in order of preference, the candidates for a particular office. The Senior Student Council and Honor Council officers will then count the first place votes; the candidate garnering the lowest first-place vote total shall be eliminated. The second preference of a ballot whose first-place choice has been eliminated will then be counted as a first-place vote. The process shall continue until all but one of the candidates has been eliminated. The remaining candidate will then be declared the winner. If an elected officer does not become a member of his class, a special election will be held the next year to fill his office.

Article 5 - Duties:

A. The Student Council shall meet whenever deemed necessary by the Executive Committee, the Student Council President, or the Headmaster.

B. The Student Council shall cooperate with the Headmaster and Faculty, by investigating infractions of school policy including matters of dress, language, and behavior and by taking action on these matters by meeting and recommending penalties to the Headmaster by a two-thirds majority of all the members of the Student Council, for it is understood that executive authority is lodged with the Headmaster.

C. The Student Council may suggest various projects and activities that the clubs of Montgomery Bell Academy may undertake.

D. The Student Council shall encourage interest in activities, such as the annual spaghetti supper, faculty-student athletic contests, and assembly programs.

Article 6 - Ratification and Amending Process:

A. This Student Council Constitution shall go into effect immediately upon receiving a three-fourths majority vote of the Student Council, a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Body, majority vote of the Faculty, and final approval by the Headmaster.

B. An amendment to this Constitution proposed by any student or faculty member may be presented to the Student Council for consideration. This Constitution may be so amended by a three-fourths majority vote of the Student Council, a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Body, by a majority vote of the Faculty, and by final approval of the Headmaster.



MBA Honor System needs reform

MBA Honor Council fails to completely satisfy students

For over fifty years, MBA has maintained an Honor System designed to form gentlemen in the student body. By and large, the student body follows the regulations set forth in

good numbers stop here. While most students surveyed believe the Honor Council works "somewhat" as a deterrent, the number of students who believe the Honor Council is an

absolute deterrent dwindles with age. 43% of sophomores, 31% of juniors, and 25% of seniors viewed the Council as an "absolute" deterrent. The decrease in faith in the system with age may be caused by the fact that, as students become older, they become more privy to the actions of their friends

and classmates. Also, upperclassmen who disobey the rules have ample opportunity to figure out how the system works and have found ways to circumvent prosecution and/or discovery of their offense, so upperclassmen may be aware of more unpunished Honor Code violations than younger students. In addition, the poll indicates that MBA students oppose the use of a punishment instead of a warning for a first offense, the current policy, by a 3 to 1 ratio.

Students also support the current policy of non-disclosure of Honor Council decisions (except in extreme cases). Many MBA students seem to want an Honor Council that prosecutes as little as possible and keeps its business to itself.

Although all polls are flawed due to changing opinions, pro-social responses, and their interpretive nature, it seems clear that some students think that the student judicial system is somewhat flawed. Because all judicial systems require the confidence of the bodies they serve to be effective, corrective measures clearly need to be taken. Some Honor Council policies (such as non-disclosure, which ensures students' privacy) may be good for both the students and the Council. Nevertheless, per-

haps the way in which the system works, combined with student misperceptions, has fueled a nonchalant attitude toward the Honor Council and the Honor Code in general. As students, however, we have an obligation to resolve this crisis of confidence. After all, such a situation could

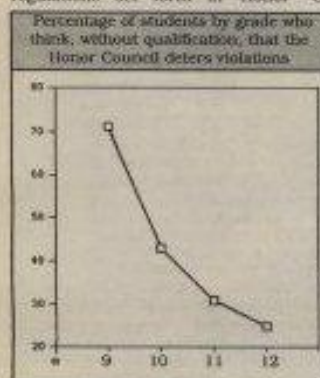
foreshadow the downfall of the ideals of MBA's Honor Council. First and foremost, the Honor Council should begin a more active campaign to educate the students. The

numbers might show students how much of a problem Honor Code violations are and show the number of violations of which the Council is aware. MBA students need to act themselves to vote for the best candidates and not their friends. The current election process, which goes on during class meetings, allows for active campaigning during the voting. As a result, some students feel a need to vote for their friends instead of those candidates that would do the best job in office. Allowing students to vote outside of class meetings might help to correct this problem.

Also, extending the lengths of Honor Council terms might lessen the likelihood of council members taking only popular, possibly overly lenient, stances in order to get re-elected.

Finally, students and faculty need to discuss ways to improve the Honor Council's effectiveness. No real efforts at reform have been made or new ideas discussed since the Honor Council proposed three amendments to the Honor Council Constitution two years ago. If everybody at MBA took an objective look at the Honor System and came up with ways to improve it, some really good changes might be suggested. No system for regulating people can ever be made perfect, but improvements should still be contemplated and discussed.

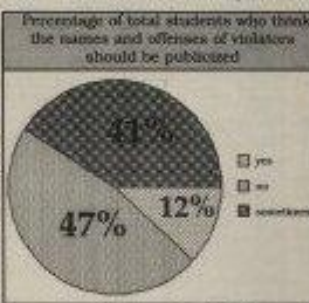
Ultimately, no system can prevent infringements of the rules. Nevertheless, the students and the Honor Council both need to change their approach to the Honor System. The entire student body must care about the Honor Code a bit more to ensure that the system succeeds in its mission of forming gentlemen in the student body.



MBA's Student Handbook and Directory and accepts that it is the place of the Honor Council, a student-run institution, to step in when a student deviates from the realm of acceptable behavior and resolve the controversy with fairness. A recent poll conducted by The Bell Ringer shows a lack of confidence in the Honor Council to prevent and resolve offenses, particularly among older students.

The poll demonstrates that most of the freshmen polled (a solid 71%) believe that the Honor Council deters violations of the Honor Code. Unfortunately, the

percentage of students who think the Honor Council deters violations decreases with age. 71% of freshmen, 43% of sophomores, 31% of juniors, and 25% of seniors viewed the Council as an "absolute" deterrent. The decrease in faith in the system with age may be caused by the fact that, as students become older, they become more privy to the actions of their friends



The Bell Ringer surveyed students from a regular and an honors English class from each grade in the High School. The total results for each question were as follows:

- Does the presence of the Honor Council serve as a deterrent for honor violations?
Yes - 43 (40%) somewhat - 56 (52%) No - 8 (8%)
- Is the Honor Council too heavily influenced by faculty members?
Yes - 28 (28%) somewhat - 36 (35%) No - 38 (37%)
- Are your elected Honor Council representatives the most qualified members of your class to serve on the Honor Council?
Yes - 44 (43%) some - 19 (19%) No - 35 (38%)
- Should a first violation of the Honor Council result in a punishment instead of a warning?
Yes - 25 (25%) No - 75 (75%)
- Should the names and offenses of convicted Honor Council violators be made known to the student body?
Yes - 13 (12%) sometimes - 45 (41%) No - 51 (47%)

January 22, 1997

Opinions

The Bell Ringer



Honor System does not need major reform Honor Council works well, students should need no oversight

by the Honor Council

Recently, there have been attacks on the credibility of the Honor Council in terms of being a reliable deterrent for the MBA student. Recent polls apparently show that the Honor Council has not been up to past standards as an "absolute" deterrent against breaking the Honor Code at MBA. System failures, bad representatives, and a forecast of the downfall of MBA ideals have also been mentioned. The purpose of writing this article will be to try to correct a few of these misperceptions about the Honor Council and its role in this school.

One of the basic misperceptions is that the Honor Council has ever acted as an absolute deterrent to offenses that have occurred. The Council itself has no way to actually prevent or stop students from breaking the Honor Code. The Council has never been an absolute deterrent, although council members strive to instill a strong sense of personal responsibility in MBA students. The Honor Council is not around to be the "police of the MBA community". The Council has no interest in being an everyday part of an individual's life or watching over students to make sure that they do the right thing. This is a job that all students must undertake. The students themselves must uphold their own honor or reputation. If they cannot do this without being

deterred by a threat of punishment, then the system means nothing at all. When this personal feeling of responsibility falls, then it is the job of the Honor Council to step in and try to make sure, on an individual basis, that the offense does not occur again.

Another question that has been raised is whether there is a strong enough sense of honor at the school. We believe that the first and foremost way the school fosters a sense of honor and makes sure that the will of the school is known is through the pledge. This is the way that the honor system becomes involved with students on a regular basis. Can it be that we have forgotten that on every single assignment that a teacher at this school grades it says, "On my honor as a gentleman...?" This is the sense of personal responsibility that must come first before any deterrent of the Honor Council comes into play. Only when this personal check fails does the Honor Council intend to intercede and correct any problems that we think might need correcting. There are other ways that a sense of honor is instilled in the community. Every teacher at MBA knows the seriousness of honor and provides a set of rules that students should follow. These rules are based upon the standards that each teacher sets for the student body. Also, the Honor Council members themselves try to main-

tain a sense of honor in the community. For all of these reasons, it is reasonable to assume that MBA does foster a strong sense of honor.

The next thing that has been mentioned is that there is a disturbing trend of students who believe that the Honor Council does not have the most qualified representatives in the grade. This is irrelevant to the effectiveness of the Council for two reasons: you don't need the most qualified representatives in the grade to solve the problems that come before the Council in the first place, and most of our representatives really do become the most qualified in the grade by arriving on the Council. This is true because of the way that the Honor Council works. Every representative contributes to the decision of the whole. This means that we are able to come to a conclusion or recommendation to the headmaster that would be comparable to one reached if the most qualified people in the grade were present. However, it is the responsibility of the student body to elect the best representatives in the grade in order to have the most beneficial effect on the MBA community. The elections should in no way be a popularity contest, and this will ensure that the Honor Council will continue to be effective.

Recently, it has also been suggested that it is dangerous to keep the decisions of the Council private, and that it is dangerous for the Council to use charitable punishment. First of all, there are reasons why the Honor Council keeps to itself, as well as reasons why the Council may not prosecute students as much as others might want. We must remember that the meetings that the Council have are between the individual and the Council. Private decisions make sure that the students remain anonymous, so changes can be made without everyone knowing. There is a disclosure policy at Harpeth Hall that releases the statistics about what happens in their meetings. This system at MBA would only serve to increase any rumors about who got what punishment. Here, publicity of the decisions in no way makes a difference to the effectiveness of the result. Besides, ideally we should not have to worry about what the punishment was that someone else received to determine our own

actions. We would suggest looking in the handbook or reviewing teachers' policies if there is any question about the seriousness that MBA takes about honor. Another thing that should be mentioned is that two years ago the Honor Council attempted to raise the standards of honor to make sure that the Honor Code was taken just a little more seriously. The elimination of the "warning" was defeated by the student body. Regardless of this disappointment, the Honor Council still tries to make sure that enough guidance is used to make sure that there are no repeat offenders.

It has been suggested that these policies forecast the downfall of MBA's ideals. We believe that today's view of the Honor Code or the Honor Council is really not very different from the way it has been viewed in the past. If anything, the Honor Council is more involved in the school today. The point is that this eminent downfall would be caused by something that has not changed in several years (disclosure policies and practical application of decisions.) The view that a downfall of MBA's ideals is coming should first take into account the forces that have kept others in line for fifty years. Secondly, many things within the school and community teach us how to behave, but ultimately the student himself is responsible for any change that may occur due to a meeting with the Honor Council. Students who disobey must learn to change on their own, and this is exactly what the Honor Council seeks during its meetings.

In conclusion, in most cases the Honor Council has done a defensible job. The thought that goes into each and every case results in what the Council thinks will be the most beneficial result. Any downfall of the MBA ideal should not be attributed to the policies of the Honor Council or any of its decisions. As always, there is room for improvement. Any constructive suggestions will be welcome. But for the current time, we believe that what needs to be mentioned is that the Honor Council should not take the place of personal responsibility. The Honor Council still will stand firm in its job to uphold the Honor Code and to ensure that this system succeeds.

The Bell Ringer

Editor in Chief
Content Editor
News Editor
Asst. News Editor
Opinions Editor
Features Editor
Sports Editor
Copy Editor
Asst. Copy Editor
Production Manager
Photography Editor
Layout Editor
Business Manager
Advertising Manager
Layout Staff
Photography Staff
Content & Copy Staff

Lee Hargrove
Aren Amundson
Robert Ross
Caleb Roth
Prize Smith
Adam Laughman
Matthew Berry, Russell Taylor
A.J. Byrd
John Thomson
Joe Montgomery
Joe Montgomery
Alan Newman
Freddie Holliday
Chris Hargrove
Adam Johnson
Gavin Korte
Stephen Marley, Andrew Mazzanti,
David N. Stephen Wae
Mrs. Hamilton

Adviser
The Bell Ringer is a nonprofit newspaper published for and by the students of Montgomery Bell Academy.

Views expressed in The Bell Ringer do not necessarily represent those of the staff, student body, or school. The opinions of the editorial board are expressed in assigned editorials. The Bell Ringer reserves the right to edit letters to the editor. The letters must be signed, but names will be withheld upon request. The letters may be edited for length.

The staff of The Bell Ringer prepares all type, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. GCA Publishing in Nashville, Tennessee prints the paper.
E-mail address: Ring@MontgomeryBell.com



Students take it outside

by Wilson VornDick

On November 9 and 10, an Outing Club contingent (consisting of Brian Pilson, Raleigh Haswell, Joe Montgomery, John Hart, Mr. Fletcher, and Wilson VornDick) took a momentous road trip to a very nice park in southern Tennessee called Savage Gulf, or, to you rock climbers, "Stone Door." The drive there was very exhilarating. Aside from taking in the pastoral scenes and fresh country air, we saw the local culture. The local culture was like nothing we would later encounter at Savage Gulf. It took the form of four-wheelers, chop shops, an occasional abandoned rodeo, lots of cows, plenty of trucks, and multitudes of mobile homes. At the local gas station, we were even invited to the following week-end's Annual Grundy County Turkey Shoot, but had to decline. Because the trail we originally planned to use was full, we decided to hike the Stagecoach Trail on the other side of the park. The trail was very easy to hike and there were some of the most beautiful vistas and waterfalls that I've ever seen. After hiking about five miles, we pitched camp at the Stagecoach Campsite. Our five-star French chef, Raleigh Haswell, made a splendid dinner of quail and chicken for the lucky few and then made his specialty, Scrambled Brownie. After building a roaring fire, we looked back and relaxed.

Soon it was time for bed. I, however, did not sleep long. At about 2 a.m., it started to snow. This wouldn't have bothered me if I had remembered to put the fly on the tent. I proceeded to correct this omission in twenty-degree weather while wearing boxers. Fortunately, for me, Joe helped me because he was also snowed out, and he probably did all the work.

The next morning, it was very cold, with about half an inch of snow on the ground. After chef Haswell made chocolate chip pancakes for breakfast, we struck camp. The trip back was smooth sailing. The club is currently planning to take a trip immediately after exams.



Morning Raleigh

Sin & penance

by Wilson VornDick

From the time I was seven until I was about thirteen, it was just as fun to play with G.I. Joes as it was for me to make or destroy my sister's Barbie dolls as best I could. These indecent victimizations took on many forms and many levels. At first, my mind could only conceive of cutting off Barbie's hair or breaking off her arms and legs. Eventually, I rose above these peccatory forms of torture and produced ones even more grisly. Breaking Ken's arms or legs off and throwing Barbie from lofty heights, such as the staircase or roof, were among the more memorable ones. Once, I even considered blowing her up, but I could never find my fireworks. For some reason, it gave me a thrill to watch her break into a thousand pieces. I know for a fact that I'm not the only male on campus who has a sister. I know there are others of you who were just as malicious to their sister's Barbies as I was, if not worse. What better way would there be to make up for my cruelty to her than to ask her for her own pardon, in person?



VornDick pleads for absolution as his friend looks on.

And so, on November 16, of that most sacred year nineteen hundred and ninety-six, I waited anxiously, weirdly enough the only male in line, for thirty minutes to ask for Barbie's mercy at her autograph signing at the most prestigious Target on White Bridge Road. And, finally, at 2 p.m., the years of anguish were let loose. I prostrated myself in front of her. Almost kissing the red tile floor, I told her of all the bad things I had ever done to her. She laughed and forgave me! I feel this act of forgiveness was in the same spirit as the principle of "Gentleman" in MBA's motto. I was a gentleman because I asked for forgiveness for my wrongs. I certainly hope you others out there, who are guilty like me, will do the same.

Theater constructs abstractions

by Chris Nalbantyan

To be honest, after playing my essential part as an audience member in *The Construct*, I was somewhat bewildered about what I had just seen or, should I say, witnessed. Upon serious reflection about the student-directed one-act plays, I decided that I had seen a first-class attempt at several difficult pieces in what turned out to be an overall success in my mind. Admittedly, the plays that were chosen may not have been all that accessible to the audience or players, but if the people in the audience were looking for an intellectual teaser, they certainly got a treat.

"The Voice of the People" (directed by Greg LaVigne), "Icarus' Mother" (directed by Brent Brod), "That Time" (directed by Adam Laughbaum), "In Proximity Lie Secret Codes" (directed by Adam Vahrenkamp), and "Blackout" (directed by Gary Braren) all seemed to be interconnected by a common theme: the discovery of the intricacies of the human mind. Each play lent the audience a different perspective of the workings of the human mind on both the semi-conscious and unconscious (a fact a gas-masked Mark Yopp hinted to in *The Construct*'s prologue). "The Voice of the People," starring Greg Huggins, Adam Vahrenkamp, Hastings Beard, and Rachel Werret, dealt with complacency and ignorance in the context of a 1950's husband, "Icarus' Mother," featuring Michael Risen, Greg LaVigne, Thom Little, Anne Rankin, and Devon Williamson, focused on people's connections with each other and the world around them. Jesse Ewers, Gary Braren, Stephen Braren, Susan Clark, and Melissa Moore performed in Vahrenkamp's play which concentrated on an individual's impulsive, messy and mutual isolation. The final play, "Blackout," starred Sarah Glascock, Chris Callister, and Jonathan Sewell and examined isolation, guilt, insanity, and reconciliation. Particularly interesting was "That Time" in which one dead man (Rian Witt) struggles with the confusion of his own memories. Similar themes ran throughout the structure of *The Construct* and were central to complete understanding of the play.

"Life is short.
Make your mark."

-Neddy Andrews

Be remembered.

USE YOUR IMAGINATION
MCCLURES

NYC Boys' Club wins basketball tournament

by Russell Taber

While our varsity battled away in Memphis over the holidays, MBA hosted its own basketball tournament. Two teams from area YMCAs, two from Middle Tennessee's own Boys' Club, one from the Salvation Army, one from the Boys' Club of New York, and two from the Metro Parks competed. In the second annual Big Red invitational tournament, the eight teams in the tournament met for lunch on Thursday, December 26, at the Hard Rock Cafe after the Boys' Club of New York arrived in N-Vegas. At 5:00 that evening, a group of recent MBA alumni challenged and defeated the Boys' Club of New York. After a dinner at MBA, the visiting Boys' Club team rested in a nearby hotel, awaiting the next day's competition.

On December 27 and 28, the

teams fought for the crown. After a consolation game Saturday morning, the Boys' Club from New York shook off their earlier loss to the MBA alumni and squeaked past a local YMCA team, despite trailing for most of the game. Trophies were awarded to the top four teams, and those who made the all-tournament squad received NBA paraphernalia. Later that day, the teams were treated to a Vandy women's basketball game.

Many MBA students earned a sharp t-shirt for their volunteer work behind the scorer's table or in the concession stand. The Columbia Medical group helped provide financial resources. Mr. Jemison directed the tournament this year, and Mr. Giona, the founder of the event, helped organize its outside workings.

Swimming (continued from page 8)

divers David McIntosh, Michael Augustine (brother of Jean), and others. The Diving Team practices on Tuesday and Thursday after school. Another goal of the team is to better our third-place finish in the State Meet. It was the highest finish ever for the team behind Baylor and McCallie.

The Swim Team is definitely on the right track to these goals. The unit's never-ending streak of winning all dual meets continues this year with defeats of Martin Luther King (88 to 65), Centennial (99 to 61), and Brentwood (117 to 50). In the final dual meet against Ryan, the Big Red drowned the Fighting Irish. The Irish believed they had something to show MBA, but I am clueless as to what it could have been except numbers. However, high numbers of low quality didn't get them anywhere because the Big Red dominated the meet. Many MBA swimmers won their events. Adrian Cameron, for example, won the 200 and 500 freestyle races. Only the State and Region meets await the swim team, and some fan support would be greatly appreciated.

So far this year, the highest fan turnout was at the Brentwood meet. It was incredible. Besides Mr. Regan and Mr. Weaver, approximately one student showed up, stayed about three minutes (to see a girl on the Brentwood side), and missed a classic drowning of Brentwood. Although swimming may seem like one of those obscure, steady sports on the Spring Sports Banquet list, the team does need support, especially for the big meets. The team would like to break this year's high and have a few students and teachers experience the utter excitement of observing some fast swimming MBA style.

A commitment to tradition, honor and values builds communities.

We at Belle Meade

Motorcar wish to express support for MBA students, faculty, and families. The striving for excellence in academics, as well as social and moral values, encourages the growth of responsible, honorable, and inspired citizens.

"The fruit of liberal education is not learning, but the capacity and desire to learn; not knowledge, but power."

-C.W. Eliot



5210 Harding Road ■ Nashville, TN 37205 ■ 615-352-0920

MICHAEL·Renee'

Lifestyle Portraiture Salutes



Stephen Marler

Stephen is a three sport letterman, seventh place finisher in state decathlon, soup kitchen volunteer, and a Habitat for Humanity organizer



MBA hoopsters steal 4th place in Memphis

Big Red looks at heat up for district competition

by Stephen Marler



Whit Smith posts up and puts it up against Hillsboro.

After a disappointing two and five start, the basketball team stepped up its work in the gym and the weight room in preparation for the bulk of the season. Michael Godwin's sweet moves, accurate passing, suffocating on-the-ball defense, and 18.3 points per game continue to catch the eyes of recruiters, while Whit Smith has been pounding the glass for about eight boards per outing. The arrival of the football players added much needed depth and strength to the Big Red's line-up. Going into the Christmas break, the Big Red basketball team was fresh off a huge last-second win over Baylor and a much needed week of weight lifting and shooting work. Conditioning was the theme in the Big Red's three holiday practices.

Taking a short break for the holidays, junior Omar Booker was able to pack on a few pounds before packing his bags for the Ross M. Lynn Classic in Memphis.

Despite the absence of Big Red superfan, Jean Augustine, the trip provided a great basketball atmosphere in which the team was able to come together. The Cardinal and Silver trounced Briarcrest but came up short against Evangelical Christian School and eventual tournament champion Memphis University School. (Editor's note: Stephen Marler's sharp shooting, aggressive rebounding, and tough defense earned him all-tournament honors.) Implementing new methods on both offense and defense, the team was able to make great strides while capturing fourth place in the

tournament as well as a "full rack" of new team experiences.

With a new insight into their potential, the hoopsters came back to the gym for a new year and a new season. Before going back to school, the team spent most of its practice time on shooting and game situations. Sadly, though, the team's ongoing conditioning took its first victim. After stepping up to run with the team, manager Stephen Was was unable to stomach the running and was found sprawled out over a trash can an hour after practice. Nevertheless, the Big Red will carry on as the district race intensifies. A series of district games against Ryan, Overton, Hillsboro, and Pearl-Cohn starts up the stretch run as the team tries to heat up before tournament season.

Wrestling smothers dual meet competition ...

... but struggles in invitationals

by David Farrell

After training hard for several months, the MBA Wrestling Team traveled to Antioch for its first real test of the year and won. The team soon compiled a record of 11-0, which included some matches won by only a few points. The team next journeyed to Memphis, where it faced its toughest competition of the year so far. Despite some great wrestling, the team met with their first loss in a match with Alabama powerhouse Gissom High



Alexander wrestles his way to a win

School that came down to the last minute. The Big Red bounced back from this disappointing loss to claim victories in Memphis over Christian Brothers High School and Germantown. MBA left Memphis ranked eighth in the state with a record of thirteen wins and one loss. The Wrestling Team then spent a week in uninterrupted practice preparing for the Overton Invitational. Despite having no number one seeds and little respect from the other teams, the team claimed three individual first-place finishes and an overall third-place rank in the tournament. David Sanders, Jonathan Williams, and Johnny Rich came in 1st; Sterling Sanders and Brian Keane finished 2nd; Hunter Verner and Philip Simpson placed 4th. At the Ryan tournament, MBA dropped from 4th to 10th after an MBA wrestler was disqualified in a fall that Big Red wrestlers think was unfair. David Sanders and Johnny Rich placed 3rd, Keane finished 4th, and Sterling Sanders came in 6th. The wrestling team then beat Clarksville Northeast and Clarksville Academy before traveling to the District meet, where it placed 2nd. The team will next compete in the Region dual meet for the first time in years and may go to State duals.



Sanders pushes for the pin in yet another victorious match

Warm water and wet suits

Opponents splashed in the face by stellar swimmers

by Chris Nalbantyan

Although the 1996-1997 Swim Team lost training coach Ben Small, the team seems stronger than ever. Fortunately, the squad was able to find a replacement for Coach Small in Amy Leigh, who oversees the in-water training. Veteran Coach Steve Rundberg continues both to help with actual training and to be the strategic man behind-the-scenes preparing line-ups and running meets. Also, the size of the Swim Team has increased tremendously (I do not venture to conjecture why) to a total of 27 swimmers. With the senior leadership of James Walton, Chris Nalbantyan, and Jonathan Chen, and great underclassmen talents Adrian Cameron, Jonathan Baird, and others, the Swim Team has high hopes of regaining its stolen Region Title. In order to accomplish this goal, MBA's first ever Diving Team has been added to the swimming machine's arsenal. For those of you who don't know the story, at last year's Region Swim Meet, MBA dominated in the swimming events but placed second in Diving due to some underhanded and shady last-minute diving entries by the Bruins. To prevent any other such occurrences, the team sought out Michael Stult as Diving Team coach and coach. on page 7)